

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to a network-based document management system from a client, comprising the steps of:
  - retrieving document management data from an associated document management module, which document management module is adapted to interface a networked document processing system;
  - defining access point data representative of an access point within a local file system of the client;
  - interfacing to said access point with a local file navigation interface such that document processing operations associated with the document management module are represented in a format native to the local file navigation interface;
  - receiving from an associated user, via the local file navigation interface, document management instructions; and
  - and
  - communicating received document management instructions to the document management module such that the associated user accesses the network-based document management system from within the local file navigation interface via said access point defined within said local file system;
  - retrieving at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module, which electronic document file includes metadata corresponding thereto;
  - and
  - performing selected document management operations corresponding to retrieved document management data on the at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module such that metadata is retained for document management

operations completed within the document management module and metadata is stripped for document management operations communicated outside of the document management module.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a user of said local file navigation interface in the step of interfacing transfers document files between said local file system and the network-based document management system via said access point in accordance with pre-selected access rights associated with the associated user.

3. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said access point is presented as a user-selectable folder icon that conforms to a user interface of an operating system of said client.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said local file navigation interface in the step of interfacing is integrated into an operating system of said client.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of validating a user of an operating system of the client prior to granting access to said user to the network-based document management system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of validating occurs when said user logs in to said operating system of said client.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of validating occurs when said user logs in to a network from which the network-based document management system is served.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of validating occurs when said user selects said access point via said local file navigation interface.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said access point in the step of defining provides a link between said local file system and the network-based document management system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user who accesses the network-based document management system via said access point in the step of accessing performs at least one of deleting, renaming, moving, and copying said document file, viewing said document file properties and, viewing said document file in read-only mode.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a user who accesses the network-based document management system via said access point in the step of accessing performs at least one of transferring a folder between said local file system and the network-based document management system, deleting, renaming, moving, and copying said folder and, viewing said folder properties.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of providing access to a remote document repository from a client, comprising the steps of:

retrieving document management data from an associated document management module, which document management module is adapted to interface a networked document processing system;

defining access point data representative of an access point within a local file system of the client;

interfacing to said access point with a local file navigation interface such that document processing operations associated with the document management module are represented in a format native to the local file navigation interface;

receiving from an associated user, via the local file navigation interface, document management instructions; and

communicating received document management instructions to the document management module such that the associated user accesses the remote document repository via said access point defined within said local file system;

retrieving at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module, which electronic document file includes metadata corresponding thereto; and

performing selected document management operations corresponding to retrieved document management data on the at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module such that metadata is retained for document management operations completed within the document management module and metadata is stripped for document management operations communicated outside of the document management module.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein a user of said local file navigation interface in the step of interfacing transfers document files between said local file system and the remote document repository via said access point in accordance with pre-selected access rights associated with the associated user.

14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said access point in the step of defining is presented as a user-selectable folder icon that conforms to a user interface of an operating system of said client.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of validating a user of the remote document repository when said user logs in to an operating system of the client.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of validating a user of the remote document repository when said user logs in to a network operating system that facilitates network access to the remote document repository.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of validating a user of the remote document repository when said user accesses said access point via said local file navigation interface.

18. (Currently Amended) A system of accessing a network-based document management system from a client, comprising:

means adapted for retrieving document management data from an associated document management module, which document management module is adapted to interface a networked document processing system;

an access point defined within a local file system of the client, the access point having access point data associated therewith;

and

a local file navigation interface for interfacing to said access point such that document processing operations associated with the document management module are represented in a format native to the local file navigation interface;

means adapted for receiving from an associated user, via the local file navigation interface, document management instructions; and

means adapted for communicating received document management instructions to the document management module such that the associated user, wherein a user accesses the network-based document management system from within the local file navigation interface via said access point defined within said local file system;

means for retrieving at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module, which electronic document file includes metadata corresponding thereto; and

means for performing selected document management operations corresponding to retrieved document management data on the at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module such that metadata is retained for document management operations completed within the document management module and metadata is stripped for document management operations communicated outside of the document management module.

19. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein a user of said local file navigation interface transfers document files between said local file system and the network-

based document management system via said access point in accordance with pre-selected access rights associated with the associated user.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said access point is presented as a user-selectable folder icon that conforms to a user interface of an operating system of said client.

21. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein a user seeking access to the network-based document management system is validated when said user logs in to an operating system of the client.

22. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein a user seeking access to the network-based document management system is validated when said user logs in to a network operating system that facilitates network access to the network-based document management system.

23. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein a user seeking access to the network-based document management system is validated when said user accesses said access point via said local file navigation interface.

24. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said access point data provides a link between said local file system and the network-based document management system.

25. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein a user who accesses the network-based document management system via said access point performs at least one of deleting, renaming, moving, and copying said document file, viewing said document file properties and, viewing said document file in read-only mode.

26. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein a user who accesses the network-based document management system via said access point performs at least one of transferring a folder between said local file system and the network-based document management system, deleting, renaming, moving, and copying said folder and, viewing said folder properties.

27. (Currently Amended) A system of accessing a remote document repository from a client, comprising:

means adapted-for retrieving document management data from an associated document management module, which document management module is adapted to interface a networked document processing system;

an access point defined within a local file system of the client, the access point having access point data associated therewith;

a local file navigation interface for interfacing to said access point such that document processing operations associated with the document management module are represented in a format native to the local file navigation interface;

means adapted-for receiving from an associated user, via the local file navigation interface, document management instructions; and

means adapted-for communicating received document management instructions to the document management module such that the associated user, wherein a user accesses the remote document repository from within the local file navigation interface via said access point defined within said local file system;

means for retrieving at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module, which electronic document file includes metadata corresponding thereto; and

means for performing selected document management operations corresponding to retrieved document management data on the at least one electronic document file associated with the document management module such that metadata is retained for document management operations completed within the document management module and metadata is stripped for document management operations communicated outside of the document management module.

28. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 27, further comprising:  
means adapted-for transferring, via said local file navigation interface, document files between said local file system and the remote document repository via said access point;

means ~~adapted~~ for transferring, via said local file navigation interface, document files within the remote document repository; and

means ~~adapted~~ for selectively preserving metadata associated with at least one document file during a transfer within the remote document repository.

29. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said access point is presented as a user-selectable folder icon that conforms to a user interface of an operating system of said client.

30. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein a user seeking access to the remote document repository is validated when said user logs in to an operating system of the client.

31. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein a user seeking access to the remote document repository is validated when said user logs in to a network operating system that facilitates network access to the remote document repository.

32. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein a user seeking access to the remote document repository is validated when said user accesses said access point via said local file navigation interface.